

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Competitive Cheer Committee Meeting

East Lansing, February 4, 2009

Members Present:

Steve Bennink, Coopersville
Stephanie Davis, Croswell
Kevin Guzzo, St. Joseph
Leroy Hackley, Jenison
Ken Mohney, Mattawan
Heather Prentice, Portage
Tricia Williams, Rochester

Members Absent:

Celeste Kubiak, Houghton Lake
Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
Sarah Stewart, Ovid

Staff:

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp (Recorder)

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed its responsibilities as a standing sports committee and the process of making recommendations to MHSAA staff and the MHSAA Representative Council. In addition, the Competitive Cheer Committee reviewed the charge of the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee which met on January 28, 2009. This Sub-Committee studied the technical aspects of Competitive Cheer and its recommendations were submitted to the Competitive Cheer Committee. In addition, the minutes from last year's Competitive Cheer Committee and Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee were re-examined.

CALENDAR CHANGES/PROPOSALS

Calendar changes for 2009-2010, which were revised December 5, 2008 by Representative Council, were received by the Girls Competitive Cheer Committee. Specific to competitive cheer is that the starting date remains the same (Monday, Nov. 9, 2009) and there is a requirement of seven separate days of practice for the team. In addition, competition will not be allowed before 14 calendar days (Monday, Nov. 23, 2009).

Also reviewed by the committee were proposals that are being considered to modify out-of-season rules. These proposals, which are being reflected upon by all sport committees, include open gyms, preseason "down time", the limited player rule, and summer rules.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

The MHSAA Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee met with the purpose of annually reviewing current competition and safety rules and to propose changes and additions to the Competitive Cheer Manual. The committee focused on the technical aspects of competitive cheer and advised the full committee and ultimately the Representative Council of the rules that may need review, revision or update. The Competitive Cheer Committee also discussed rules for which no action was taken by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee as well as the recommendations from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee.

Several items were discussed which helped in emphasizing current rules and regulations as well as giving the items consideration as proposals. The sub-committee took "no action" on the following proposals:

- a. To increase the variety points in Round 3 to twenty points possible.
- b. To award an unsportsmanlike penalty for banging, hitting the mat and excessive celebration.
- c. To decrease penalties in each round to not be greater than 7 points.
- d. To request for a Round 1 Description Sheet – sample received.
- e. To create a new 10 Count Precision Drill each year.
- f. To include a new Round 2 skills list on the present score sheet.
- g. To use abbreviation form – sample received.
- h. To judge all skills from a standing position as the starting point of a stunt.
- i. To re-evaluate and change the current MHSAA difficulty scoring system in Round 3.
- j. To consider a greater value to skills considered more difficult and leave room for subjectivity.
- k. To allow music in Round 3.
- l. To allow middle school teams to twist at extension level.
- m. To allow a suspended backward roll while being held by bracers.
- n. To allow boys to cheer in Round 3 only.

- o. To require judges to return Round 3 description sheets with specific marked areas where points were not given during competition.
- p. To consider Round 3 proposed changes – information received.
- q. To request that “performing with a hole” not be penalized.
- r. To request that additional middle school skills be allowed.
- s. To change the decimal to 2 rather than 4.
- t. To change the scoring for Round 2 to allow for one multiplier (instead of five).

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

- a. Request that extended stunts be allowed to brace an extension level stunt when the bracing flyer is in an upright position. This must be a double-based stunt with a back spot. This was also supported by the Competitive Cheer Committee and a request was made for additional descriptive language.
- b. Request that prep/different entrances receive variety points except for a single or double hop & go or regular jumping in – preps would receive variety points. The Committee took no action on this recommendation.
- c. Allow a team to perform a near and far arm cartwheel and a switch split, side split and/or triple splits in Round 2. This was supported by Competitive Cheer Committee.
- d. Include the allowance for bracers on suspended rolls with the verbiage as indicated: “A forward suspended roll is legal when: Dismounts to the mat, cradle or a sponge and the flyer maintains continuous hand to hand/arm contact with the original bases, back spot or 2 or more bracers. The flyer begins in an upright position from shoulder height or below (including the floor or a sponge).” The Competitive Cheer Committee sent this recommendation back to the Sub-Committee for future review in 2009-2010.
- e. Change the verbiage regarding a double braced “tick toc” to include the opportunity for additional flair points to be received. Braced release skill w/flair = 4 points. The language would cover the different variations that are seen on braced release skills that are not technically “tick tocs”. The Competitive Cheer Committee took no action on this request although additional language will be updated as this is not a change.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM COMPETITIVE CHEER SUB-COMMITTEE

Three additional items came from the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee to be reviewed by full committee which were not considered “technical rule concerns”. The Competitive Cheer Committee discussed a request for combining Round 1 and Round 2 as well as reducing the emphasis on difficulty in Round 2. In both of these discussions, there was a need for additional information prior to consideration. It was agreed that the summer Manual Committee would re-evaluate the requests for future deliberation by committee.

The committee reviewed the rule in which a competitor multiplier is used in Round 2 which balances the risk of entering more participants in the round. This multiplier has been used over the last two years due to the concern of the variances made by coaches in terms of the number of competitors in the Compulsory Round. Committee members spoke to the fact that there was an increase of penalty and an increase in risk in this round and therefore it was necessary to balance this equation. The Competitive Cheer Committee continued with its commitment to the Competitor Multiplier for next year’s Manual; however it had further discussion resulting in a request for removal of the Round 2 Competitor Multiplier in the 2010-2012 Manual and allow for a range of competitors in each Division. This proposal was received initially from the Sub-Committee. The specific range identified was:

Division 1:	14-16 competitors
Division 2:	12 -14 competitors
Division 3:	8-10 competitors
Division 4:	6-8 competitors

The committee supported the removal of the competitor multiplier with allowance for the range in 2010-12 as long as there was also a review of execution in Round 3 by the summer Manual Committee.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

As it was a resounding success for this year’s Manual, a continuance of the practice of having a summer editing group of coaches and judges review the Competitive Cheer Manual and further update the Manual in preparation for the first year of the next two-year Manual cycle was recommended. This summer

committee would also include the examination of additional recommendations as to how a combination of Round 1 and Round 2 could be prepared as well as an appraisal of Execution Bonus in Round 3.

In addition, Mr. Mohny provided a MIAAA position statement regarding changing competitive cheer from the winter to the fall. There was no action taken by the committee.

2009 COMPETITIVE CHEER TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The 2009 Competitive Cheer Tournament will hold a District for the first time ever on Saturday, February 21, 2009. There will be six Districts in four Divisions which will each have four teams progress to eight Regionals the following week. Four teams from each of the eight Regionals will move to the Finals on Saturday, March 7, 2009 which will be in a two session/one day format. The committee made a recommendation to allow for District competition on either Friday evening or Saturday starting in 2009-2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

1. Starting in the 2009-10 school year, adopt two of the technical recommendations provided by the Competitive Cheer Sub-Committee: (7-0)
 - a. Allow extended stunts to brace an extension level stunt when the bracing flyer is in an upright position. This must be a double-based stunt with a back spot.
 - b. Allow a team to perform a near and far arm cartwheel and a switch split, side split and/or triple splits in Round 2.
2. In 2010-11 (in the first year of a new Cheer Manual), remove the competitor multiplier and require a specific range per Division for all competitive cheer teams. All teams (varsity and sub-varsity) would not be able to exceed the size of the range required or drop below the range required. (7-0)

The ranges identified are:

Division 1:	14-16 competitors
Division 2:	12-14 competitors
Division 3:	8-10 competitors
Division 4:	6-8 competitors
3. Starting in 2009-10, allow the option of having a Friday night District as well as a Saturday District. (7-0)